come across any complaints of such nature. As and when such complaint(s) are brought to knowledge of the Government, appropriate action will be taken as per the provisions of the said Act.

Senior Citizens sick of Safdarjung OPD

1507. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Senior Citizens sick of Safdarjung OPD" which appeared in Delhi edition of The Statesman, dated the 31st January, 2002;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that senior citizens have to wait for longer period in various queues to get medical treatment;

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government to the said report; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to mitigate their hardships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. Separate queues are provided for senior citizens for availing of the appropriate treatment. An Additional Medical Superintendent has been designated exclusively to look after the OPD and for the welfare of the senior citizens. Besides, one senior doctor and a staff nurse is posted in the OPD for smooth management.

Malaria-prone pockets in the country

1508. SHRI MAN MOHAL SAMAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of malaria deaths are rampant in some parts of the country;

(b) whether Government have identified those pockets which are malaria prone;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(d) whether incidence of malaria has come down in Orissa in the recent years; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) (a) 928 (Provisional) deaths due to malaria have been reported in the country during the year 2001 as compared to 931 and 1048 deaths during the years 2000 and 1999 respectively.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. 1000 malaria prone and predominantly tribal districts of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Rajasthan and 19 malaria problematic cities/towns in these States and States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have been included under the Enhanced Malaria Control Project (EMCP) with World Bank Support for additional inputs for intensification of anti malaria activities since September, 1997. Seven North Eastern States are being given 100% Central Assistance w.e.f. December, 1994 for effective malaria control.

(d) and (e) The State of Orissa is having stable malaria with perennial transmission pattern. More than 60% of population in the State live in high risk areas in 210 blocks and 11 urban areas. The incidence of malaria in Orissa is showing fluctuating trend. However, during 2001 there was a decline of 16.04% in malaria cases as compared to previous year.

Availability of health services to rural women and children

1509. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that health services available to rural women and children are at par with those of urban areas;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to provide better and efficient health services in rural areas in the country?